The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. 23. CHICAGO, TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1870. NUMBER 347.

WASHINGTON.

Message from the President on Cuban Affairs.

The San Domingo Investigation.

Character of the Frauds Complained of in Connection with the Treaty.

National Bank Statement Called for by the Comptroller.

Debate on the Representative Apportionment Bill in the Senate.

Passage of the River and Harbor Appropriation Bill in the House.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

CUBAN AFFAIRS INVESTIGATED.

WASHINGTON, June 13.—The San Domingo investigation, without any further order from the House, will probably take a wide enough range to include an investigation of the charges of fraud and bribery in connection with the treaty. This, as the case is perhaps better than the proposed one by the Foreign Relations Committee, for the report and testimony will now be made public from day to day, while the latter would have been withheld until in correct session. The friends of Hatch have put in a long statement from him, but it relates principally to his own business affairs, dealings with Babcock and Cabral, and is not a paramount public importance. Hatch's statement has been answered by Babcock, and considerable produced on the part of the individual and his associates, and in a supplementary statement on his character and his methods of action on questions of public policy. General Babcock and Commissioner Aiken will be here soon on the stand several times, and both are likely to there again. There is a direct contradiction between them on the question of a certain interview in Hatch. Perry details the conversation he says he had with Babcock, who gave him (Perry) to understand that the President wanted Santo kept out of the way. The former squarely denies, and he also denies that Perry ever spoke specifically to him on Santo's case, as Perry affirms he did. Perry broke out pretty sharply against Babcock, at one time, and the latter replied in kind. It will be a good case, but could not bear to hear such a statement of facts. In case Babcock is to be examined, Commissioner Aiken will be called. His friends are confident he will come out all right, while those who put faith in Perry are certain he will damage Babcock. The difference between the two are so radical that the result must depend largely on other evidence. It is understood that the inquiry will be kept up in the case of Sears's Ministers, in connection with the Dominican Government, at least, to keep Baird out of the way until the treaty had been considered and disposed of, as his personal statement, says he has long been in favor of annexation, and believes it will ultimately come to that; that he expects to be a citizen of the United States there is lottery behind it. These charges of corruption have never taken formal shape, but some time ago it was stated that they would be asserted, for one thing, that the San Domingo ring, numbering some twenty or thirty persons, Americans and Dominicans, had secured to them-selves, through the treaty, a monopoly of the trade between the two countries, and that the ring has brought it up by a cheap rate in gold, and holds it in use in paper for its purchases. Whether these charges will be pushed remains to be seen. They are either charges somewhat similar in general character to these, but how much truth there is in any of them is not known to those not in the investigation. Committee makes its report, and, probably, to-morrow or next day. It is not known what its action will be, but there is no way of reaching the Republican who can say and to be in the ring, or who, it is thought by some, does himself is a silent and unsafe counselor.

RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CUBAN MESSAGE

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THE SECRET SCHEME.

It took the Senate just about half an hour, to-day, to give away about fifteen millions of dollars in excess of public land in Dakota, Nebraska, and Colorado to three railroad companies. One of the endowed these is the Texas Pacific, which has a stupendous job in the northern boundary of the Territory. Another is from Brownsville, through Southern Nebraska, out to Denver, and the third is from Kansas City to the capital of Nebraska. The three roads will in all load themselves with fourteen hundred miles long, and they get twenty sections of land per mile, which they are to sell at $1.25 per acre.

THE SENATE

was heard from in the House this afternoon. General Butler was very anxious to get up, but was not successful. He was not aware of the extreme anxiety till after 3 o'clock, and then it was impossible to get the House together. Enough within the next ten days, if possible. Mr. Sumner's speech was characteristic to the lucubrations with such power that only could be known till the investigation Committee makes its report, and, probably, to-morrow or next day. It is not known what its action will be, but there is no way of reaching the Republican who can say and to be in the ring, or who, it is thought by some, does himself is a silent and unsafe counselor.

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FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, June 13.

SENATE.

DISTILLERIES NORTH AND SOUTH.

Mr. COLE introduced a bill regulating the manufacture of spirits from grapes, apples, peaches and other fruits.

CONFERENCE REPORTS.

Messrs. Drake, Edmunds, and McCreery were appointed a new Committee of Conference on the Franklin Pension Agency bill. Messrs. Drake and Sumner were appointed a Committee of Conference on Logislative Appropriation bill.

CUBAN CABLE CHARGES.

Mr. POMEROY offered a resolution directing the Attorney General to examine the charges made by the Spanish Delegation in Congress in the messages passing over their line, and report to the Senate if there be any excess of the rates allowed by the act of Congress approved May 8, 1866. Adopted.

Mr. TIPTON called up the bill granting lands to aid the construction of a railroad from Brownville, Neb., to Denver, Col. Passed.

THE NATIONAL BANK STATEMENT.

Mr. HOWARD called up the joint grant bill for a post route from Detroit to Lake Michigan, and prohibit the company taking any land in any Indian reservation passing through the lands without consent of the tribe occupying, or of the President of the United States.

THE APPORTIONMENT BILL.

The Apportionment bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and Mr. SHERMAN briefly explained the bill. The bill was then reported to the Senate and the question being on concurring in the first amendment increasing the number of Representatives from 283 to 292, Mr. EDMUNDS moved to recommit the bill to the Committee on Judiciary, instructed by the House bill, to 300. Mr. MORTON opposed the proposition of striking out the number. The present number being 240, so making the House 52 in excess of the present number. Mr. THURMAN spoke briefly in favor of the proposition to recommit, for the reason that the number of Representatives which would follow would be the same as in the House amendment, where the deliberations were mainly confined to the Chairmen of committees, and not to the House as a class, generally are indifferent as to numbers, considering not more than fifty out of the whole body responsible.

Mr. THAYER spoke in favor of the largest increase, in answering the arguments that the House was not a judge in the new States.

Mr. MORRILL (Vermont) replied to Mr. THURMAN, said, that with the figures at 300, Rhode Island, Vermont, and probably New Hampshire would each lose a member.

Mr. THURMAN replied that a matter of opinion, and referred to the estimate of the census returns for 1870 from the New York Tribune, according to which, on a basis of 300 members, no State would lose a representative, and Rhode Island would gain a representative. He did not know whether she would or not.

Mr. DILLON took a similar view of the matter, being unwilling to recognize the principle that the States have any representation distributed.

Mr. THURMAN said that the House bill was based upon the principle of an increase of representation of each State on a basis of 127,000 population. Connecticut, North Carolina, Louisiana, Vermont, Rhode Island, Delaware, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, Oregon, Kansas, Nebraska, Indiana, 19; New York, 31; Illinois, 14; Pennsylvania, 20; Ohio, 17; Missouri and Kentucky, 9; and Massachusetts, 11; and Maine 5.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Bills were introduced and referred:

By Mr. MORRILL, to amend the Act establishing National Banks of United States bonds, and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

By Mr. HOOPER, to establish Indianapolis a port of delivery.

By Mr. LAWYER.—To authorize the sale of five timber on lands of the Menominee Indians in Wisconsin.

TRADE WITH CANADA.

Mr. FISHER introduced a joint resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to cause an abstract to be made showing the commercial relations to the extent of the trade between the United States and the British North American Provinces. Adopted.

NATURALIZATION BILL.

Mr. DAVIS introduced a bill to amend the Naturalization Laws, and moved the previous question. The bill makes false swearing, in naturalization, perjury, and punishable as such. The second and third sections relate to the suppression and use or possession of forged records, papers, etc. The fifth section gives to the United States Courts jurisdiction of all offences under the act.

Mr. ELDRIDGE moved that the bill be tabled. Negatived.

Mr. ELDRIDGE moved an adjournment. Negatived.

The morning hour expired during the vote on adjournment.

Mr. DAVIS moved that the rules be suspended, and the bill passed.

Mr. ELDRIDGE objected. The bill had already been under consideration for three days, and the expiration of the morning hour.

Mr. BLAINE overruled the objection, as the motion was to suspend the rules, and carried.

After another motion to adjourn, the rules were suspended, and the bill passed by 84—a strict party vote.

GENERAL DISABILITY BILL.

Mr. STOKES moved to suspend the rules, and pass the bill removing the disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth Amendment, upon the persons therein named, with the exception of those who left enterprises that holds out a promise of novelty, and the United States, for the cause in which each of which a part of the people of Cuba are engaged, which by force of arms are struggling to establish free states on their soil, and which, if successful, will be recognized by the government towards the Independent Republic of Mexico, and which James Monroe concisely expressed the rule which has governed the United States in all similar cases by reference to a country pending its struggle, by which we mean simply that we have been governed by such a course as would be consistent with a strictly and consistent form as to make the United States and with the rights to which they were entitled by the laws of nations. Such, in short, a civil war, were extended to them. Under the practice of this rule, we have recognized the highest honors of American statesmanship, the Secretary of State, and the Minister of Science of the feeble powers of the continent, and have enjoyed the friendship of the world, and the absence of all signs of conquest, and to look to the establishment of a government of their own choice. It has been the policy of this government to recognize such de facto political organization of other countries as actually existed, where the new government appeared to be firmly established, and to maintain its authority for such length of time as to inspire confidence in its stability, and to give reasonable assurance that it will be able to discharge the duties of a government. During the six months which have elapsed since the commencement of the present struggle, the conditions of the Cuban people have been fully developed, and the existence of a government of their own choice has been established, which commands the support of the majority of the people, and which has been in operation

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TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1870.

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE.

The principal Republican papers of the country have repeatedly expressed their opinion upon the supposed intention of Congress to make no provision for the continuance of the office of Special Commissioner of the Revenue, now filled by Mr. Wells. The office expires by limitation with the present fiscal year. The understanding, however, now is, that a majority of both branches in Congress favor the continuance of the office, but the President, in deference to Mr. Boutwell's peculiar opinions of his own importance, has intimated that he will not reappoint Mr. Wells. If this is true, then it is greatly to be regretted. The country owes and acknowledges a debt to Mr. Wells which the country is in no disposition to forget. The close of the war found the affairs of the nation in a chaotic condition. We did not know how much we owed, nor how much we had spent, nor the amount of revenue we were receiving. Everything was received and expended in confusion. During the war we had increased taxation in every available form, and that taxation had been levied with the most indiscriminate recklessness. To bring order out of this confusion, this office was created, and Mr. Wells appointed. For the first time in the history of the country there was a competent man entrusted with the obtaining and compilation of statistics bearing upon revenue and taxation. Well has he performed his duty. His first report astonished the country by its able review of the financial situation, and its record of what we had been doing. The report at once became a text-book for the country. His reports for 1867, '68, and '69 have followed, each becoming, more than its predecessor, a public guide, winning the confidence of the people in the information furnished and in the correctness of the Commissioner's judgment. As a public exposition of affairs, and, as a recommendation of what changes were needed, it took precedence of all other available reports. It overshadowed in the public estimation even the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury.

It is, perhaps, to this latter fact that the country may trace the hostility of Mr. Boutwell to the further continuance of the office of Commissioner. Mr. Wells has won the confidence of the entire people, who accept his irresistible array of facts, and form their judgments upon them. Against such formidable odds there is no chance. The theory an impossibility. The abolition of the office and the retirement of Mr. Wells will be regarded as a national loss. Wells' reports are in the hands of the people, and are acknowledged authority on the subjects of which they treat. He is understood by the people as a competent and fearlessly independent officer, whose duty is to exhibit all facts pertaining to revenue and taxation as they are, and not to any faction or party may want them to be. The abolition of the office will be regarded and resented by the people as a blow at them, and not at Mr. Wells. It will justly be regarded as an attempt to deprive them of the information contained in his reports. They will justly regard it as an attempt to silence popular complaints and remonstrances, by depriving the public of the only independent source of information upon the subject of taxation. The people have had the benefit of these reports for four successive years; they have felt that every reduction of taxation and reform in revenue which has taken place has been enforced upon Congress by the recommendation of Mr. Wells, and they will regard the abolition of the office as a cowardly mode of defeating any further reforms.

The following are some of the Republican papers which have demanded the continuance of the office, and the retention of Mr. Wells: Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*, Hartford (Conn.) *Courant*, *New York Times*, Albany (N. Y.) *Evening Journal*, *The Nation*, Detroit, (Mich.) *Tribune*, St. Louis (Mo.) *Democrat*, New York *Evening Post*, Milwaukee (Wis.) *Sentinel*, Cincinnati (Ohio) *Commercial*, Cincinnati (Ohio) *Gazette*.

No action of Congress will prove more unsatisfactory to the people than the discontinuance of the office of Special Commissioner, and the displacement of Mr. Wells, and no greater mistake can be committed than to do what is said to have been proposed by Mr. Boutwell and the President.

POINTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The first notable feature of the proposed Constitution of Illinois is that which requires every member of the Legislature, before entering on his official duties, to make oath that he has not "bribed any person to vote for him at the election at which he was chosen, and that he will not accept any money or other valuable thing from any corporation, company, or person, for any official act." Corruption is a difficult matter to cure, and there may possibly be some back-stair arrangements which this oath will not break up. But the man who, after taking such an oath, consents to accept a bribe will never hold the bars which he has broken down in his degradation. We believe this oath, in connection with the increase in the number of members elected to both branches of the Legislature, and the withdrawal of nearly all private bills from the Legislature, will effectually abolish 95 per cent of the corruption heretofore practised at Springfield, and render our State Legislature among the purest and its legislation among the ablest, of any in the country

COMMISSIONER WELLS.

His Proposed Reconstruction of His Office.

From the New York Nation.

Mr. Wells's term of office expires at the end of the present month, and we are sorry to hear that while a sufficient force of the Republican party remains to vote for his reappointment by the President, in deference to Mr. Boutwell, who does not like Mr. Wells' statistics, probably that the party generally will not. The fact is that the country is not with a permanent Secretary of the Treasury who has to do with the census and the annual estimate of the different branches of the revenue. It is three per cent on the former and two per cent on the latter, and the Secretary is responsible for the expenditure of the money. Mr. Boutwell went to begin by cutting down the census estimate, and he would have succeeded in this if Congress, which is the only power which controls the Secretary, had not interfered. The census, however, is now in the hands of Congress, and Mr. Boutwell has ordered the printer to be brought before him previous to the 1st of July, that the amount of the census may be reduced. The very fact of the census being in the hands of Congress is a guarantee that it will be honestly and thoroughly done, and that the Secretary will not be able to interfere with it. The annual estimate, however, is entirely in the hands of the Secretary, and it is in the transaction of this business that Mr. Wells has been so useful to the country. He has exposed the reckless and wasteful manner in which the Treasury has been administered, and has shown how the money could be saved. The testimony contained in his annual reports on this subject is overwhelming, and it is not to be supposed that Congress will not be influenced by it. The Secretary of the Treasury is not a politician, and has no political interests to serve. He is a statistician, and his reports are statistical documents. Mr. Wells's statistics, probably better than those of any other man in the country, have enabled him to reduce the annual estimates of the Treasury Department from $300,000,000 to $200,000,000 in the course of two years, and to reduce the taxation to the extent of $100,000,000. Nothing but the most unscrupulous partisanship could lead Congress to refuse the services of such a man, and we are sure that the country will not submit to it. Mr. Wells's services are worth to the country more than those of any other man in the Cabinet, and to lose them would be a public misfortune. The country unquestionably wants time for Mr. Wells to finish the work he has begun, and to embody his views so much as Mr. Wells knows what they are. Congress will not be able to reduce taxation as he has done without a statistician, and it will be foolish to throw away the benefit of Mr. Wells's experience. There never was a more powerful interest in favor of civil service reform than there is in favor of the retention of Mr. Wells at the head of the Revenue Department. The Republican party will not be guilty of such folly as to dismiss him on political grounds. The country will not submit to it. The Secretary himself has not been a politician, and has not sought political support. He has simply done his duty, and has made himself indispensable to the country. He has also made himself indispensable to Congress. We believe it was universally understood that he was the real author of the Special Commissioner of the Revenue, the very best thing we have done that could be done for the purpose of preventing the work of the last session. Nobody knew anything, in 1868, about the effect of the reduction on the revenue, or about the condition of the various industry, or about the results of the system. Mr. Wells knew all these things, and it was impossible without evidence collected by him to get Congress to act intelligently. Mr. Wells was, in fact, the only man who could have done the work, and he did it so well that Congress, under the influence of the great manufacturers, who, of their own accord, are said to be willing to submit to any additional taxation, longer than his services were required, is unwilling to dismiss him. Will the Secretary of the Treasury be allowed to do with the census what he has done with the annual estimates? Will he be allowed to reduce the expenditure of the census to the lowest possible point?

COMMON COUNCIL.

Report of the Finance Committee on the Appropriation Bill.

Board of Public Works, $1,138,778.35; Fire Department, $366,718.

Police Department, $504,500; Health, $52,068; Schools, $391,773.02.

Sewerage, $569,212.60; Salaries, $98,000; Street Lamps, $225,000.

Liability of Street Car Companies for Municipal Taxes—Six Cent Fares.

West Wing Roof—Liability of Letz & Son for the Catastrophe.

The Lake Front Money—The Committee Report Adopted.

A regular meeting of the Common Council was held yesterday evening, the President in the chair. Present: Aldermen Cox, Somers, Donnellan, Dixon, Hahn, Mosgrove, Cullerton, McAvoy, Dagg, Heenan, Tracey, Hickey, Sutterman, Hildreth, Powell (W. S.), Sorell (George), Holden, Wise, Walsh, Woodard, McCotter, Robinson, Campbell, Gill, Smith, Doerfler, McGrath, Tyler, Berger, Schnaus, Beagley, McCauley, Kehoe, Devine.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The rules were, on motion, suspended and the following report of the Committee on Finance was submitted and ordered to lay over:

GENTLEMEN: Your Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the estimate of the Comptroller for the several departments of the city government, for the ensuing fiscal year, and the several petitions for an appropriation as it was possible for us to do in the limited time we have had, and our deductions and additions we have made, and the additional imposition of the different localities where money is asked to be appropriated. It has not been the purpose of your committee to cut indiscriminately, but, on the contrary, to preserve to every department the absolutely needed to the efficient discharge of their duties on economical basis. The expenses of the city government have increased nearly increasing in the same ratio as its population and wealth, and of course more money must be made from year to year for this natural increase. The several departments have presented higher estimates for the present year than was made for the previous year, with the exception of the Board of Health and the Department of Public Reform School—the reason being in the former case, that the sewerage system of the city was contracted for at a much lower figure than here-tofore, and in case of the Reform School, because the appropriation was unusually large this year. Your committee would therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying ordinance making the appropriations for the fiscal year ending March 31, A. D. 1871:

AN ORDINANCE.

Be it ordained, &c.,

SECTION 1. That the following sums be, and hereby are, appropriated for objects herein specified, viz.:

GOVERNMENT EXPENSES.	
Commissioner of Taxes—salary	$4,000
Assessor West Division—salary	2,000
Assessor West Division—salary	1,800
Assessor South Division—salary	2,000
Collector of Taxes, &c.	10,000
Total	$19,800
For the Board of Public Works, estimated credit to be allowed by the Comptroller on account of the Board of Public Works, for the ensuing fiscal year	$31,200
For the Board of Public Works for repairs, &c., to be made during the fiscal year	$1,138,778.35
For the Department of Police	$504,500
For the Department of Health	$52,068
For the Department of Schools	$391,773.02
For the Department of Fire	$366,718
For the Department of Sewerage	$569,212.60
For the Department of Salaries	$98,000
For the Department of Street Lamps	$225,000
For the Department of Law	$20,000
For the Department of Public Buildings	$10,000
For the Department of Public Parks	$50,000
For the Department of Public Reform School	$20,000
For the Department of Public Reform School—Special	$10,000
For the Department of Public Reform School—Special	$10,000
For the Department of Public Reform School—Special	$10